

A Survey Of Nigerian Parents' Perception On The Language Development Of Their Children

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Abstract

This study surveys the perception of Nigerian parents on their children's language acquisition and development. It aims at investigating the opinion of Nigerian parents about the important roles they have to play in helping their children to learn both their mother tongue and English language. The methodology for the study involves the random selection of parents who have children in two Nursery and Primary schools in Akungba, Akoko South-West Local Government Area of Ondo State, Nigeria. A self-developed questionnaire was used to collect data from the respondents on the topic of the research. The research instrument was administered on the selected participants to generate the required information. Findings from the study revealed that parents are aware of the important roles they have in helping their children proficiently learn, not only their indigenous language, but even English, which is a second and foreign language. It was also found that English is viewed by the parents as the language of education and achievement, while the mother tongue is a tool for social learning in the family and community. Another finding is that parents are conscious of the positive influence proficiency in the mother tongue has on learning English language. Based on these findings, some suggestions were offered on what parents, teachers, government, and learners are to do in order to enhance language development in Nigeria.

Keywords: Language development, children's learning , parents' perception, , mother tongue, second language.